

Balance & Price

Jan. 9, 1949.

BALANCE AND POISE.

Isaiah 40:31 They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint!

INTRO. One of the first things a child has to learn is how to balance himself.

The mastery of balance in the use of our machines. The bicycle. Whatever tool man fashions for his use, or wherever he may wish to go, either on land or sea or in the air, he cannot enter his kingdom without a mastery of balance.

This principle of balance or poise holds good in the realm of personality and character.

A child's first instinct is to grasp and to keep. Learning that we cannot always have what we want and the disciplining of self in its relation to others is largely a matter of balance. The trouble is that so many of us do not take to the educative process and insist on growing up a prey to uncontrollable passions and to the tyranny of an unbalanced egotism. Hence come lust and hate, ~~jealousy~~ jealousy and domineering, and all else that destroys fellowship among men.

Even good taste and culture are largely a matter of proper balance. It is the lack of balance that produces the snob, the crank, the pedant. Snobbery arises from one-sided comparison.

St. Francis of Assisi conquered all pride by (r living constantly as in the presence of his superior. He never associated with his inferiors as tho he were superior to them. In the presence of the Great Superior of us all St. Francis kept a proper balance.

The whole purpose of culture is to take away this one-sidedness.

The universe is full of balance- how can we get it for ourselves?

One of the speakers in the Book of Job—"Dost thou ~~not~~ know the balancings of the clouds, the wondrous works of him which is perfect in knowledge?" Yes we do, for since the ancients observed God's ways, we have added greatly to our knowledge of poise in the universe, not only as related to the heavenly bodies, but to every thing of earth, even to the flowers that nod in the breeze.

But the biggest thrill comes to us when we experience the power of poise within ourselves, for it gives us a sense of spiritual well-being. To advance beyond crude thinking and to be freed from the thralldom of prejudice and fear is to pass from a disorganized self into an integrated personality.

And then to relate the organized self to the highest end and the greatest good just places one at the very apex of soul-satisfying achievement!

1. Contrary to popular opinion, Christian living develops balance and poise.

1. Popular idea that a Xn is a square peg in a round hole, that he is dreadfully one-sided and narrow in his outlook upon life; that it is largely negative, a giving-up, a self-denial.

2. This misconception I would remove from your minds. To live the Xn life, or the Christ-way is nothing less than the organization of the whole self in pursuit of the whole end of life.

Take, for i.e., the Master's summary of the Xn view of life: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul, with all thy mind, and thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself!" To love God supremely and one's fellows as well as oneself is perfect balance and poise, indeed.

Self-interest is alright in its place, but when made the whole object of living it defeats the very end it seeks. That is the way greedy, selfish, snobbish people are made. Love to God and a sincere concern

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concern for the welfare of humanity and community is just the balance we need for the development of a personality poised in power and peace.

Jesus again illustrates this when he makes the claim to be the Way the Truth and the Life. He offers to rescue life from ~~aimless~~ wanderings and fruitless endeavors, providing life with a true sense of direction and creating for life a definite worthy goal.

3. Our text illustrates another phase of poise and balance which develops a dynamic Xn character.

Poise includes momentum. The poise of the eagle depends upon motion. The poise of the Xn depends upon activity.

Poise and momentum were the two unique qualities in the life of Jesus. We speak of his spiritual insight, his unfaltering faith, his sure touch upon human life, the naturalness and spontaneity of his relations with men and women, his quickness in emergency, the unity of his life. He worked as a carpenter and learned early in life that he must be about his Father's business. The facing of his temptations left him poised upon a higher plane, master of himself, conscious of his mission and deliberately shaping his life towards its supreme achievement. Jesus mounted up with eagle's wings, and consequently, he ran without tiring and walked without fainting.

The Transfiguration and Calvary and the Cross prove all this beyond the shadow of a doubt.

CONC. Would you release the springs of power within your soul? Would you kindle the zeal of love that will carry you joyously and victoriously the whole way thru life? Go to Jesus and follow His way.

Would you sustain life joyously and courageously? Jesus will teach you how. He will take you to the highest levels of self-realization and attainment.

Thru lack of poise careers have been blasted, and homes have been wrecked. Good people have lost their self-respect thru vacillation and cowardice. Thru bad manners and habits many have made misfits of their lives. For those whose ~~mora~~ moral confidence has been shaken, whose souls sag in despair, whose lives have come to a standstill, salvation consists not merely of confession and forgiveness, but in the recovery of poise.

In Jesus it is possible to see life sanely and to see it whole. In Christ things that are worth while stand forth in bold relief from the things that do not matter, with the result that a myriad of petty irritations die away. In Jesus is found the unifying principle of love which interprets life as service, properly pruning the merely personal ambition. Contact with Him creates an infectious courage which expels the spirit of fear. In Him the divine love and creative energy are focussed. Verily in Him Jesus Christ is fulfilled the words of Isaiah, "They that wait upon the Lord shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; they shall walk, and not faint."